

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-04 COME-00

OPIC-06 AID-05 XMB-02 EUR-08 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01

DRC-01 /070 W

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R 181010Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8886

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJ: NIMEIRI'S REMARKS ON BSO CASE AND AMERICAN
INVESTMENT IN SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2300

1. SEVERAL LOCAL DIPLOMATS HAVE TOLD CHARGE' THEY SEE
NIMEIRI'S REMARKS BROADCAST ON OCT. 7 AS A CLEAR SIGNAL
OF GOODWILL TOWARD THE US AND OF A DESIRE TO REINSTATE
FULL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THEY
BELIEVE NIMEIRI INTENDED TO CORRECT THE IMPRESSION LEFT
BY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY IBRAHIM
MONEIM MANSOUR THAT THE USG IS APPLYING PRESSURE ON
AMERICAN FIRMS TO REFRAIN FROM INVESTING IN THE SUDAN
(KHARTOUM 2206). FINALLY, THEY THINK NIMEIRI WAS ADVISING
THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS THAT PRIVATE
INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY BY US FIRMS, IS WELCOMED AND
INDEED PREFERRED IN THE SUDAN. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
HAS REPORTED HIS SIMILAR VIEWS TO ROME, ATTRIBUTING
THEM AS WELL
MO QUOTE RESPONSIBLE ARAB SOURCES END QUOTE.
THOSE SUDANESE WHO HAVE MENTIONED NIMEIRI'S SPEECH TO
EMBASSY OFFICER TERM IT CONCILIATORY.

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2. COMMENT. OUR SOURCES ALL HOPE FOR A RESUMPTION OF NORMAL US-SUDANESE RELATIONS, BEGINNING WITH THE EARLY RETURN OF THE AMBASSADOR TO KHARTOUM, AND THEIR INTERPRETATION OF NIMEIRI'S REMARKS IS THEREFORE SOMEWHAT SELF-SERVING. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT NIMEIRI WAS MOVED BY A DESIRE TO PUNCTURE THE RUMORS (WHETHER MANUFACTURED OR NOT) OF USG PRESSURE GIVEN CURRENCY BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND TO CORRECT THE LATTER'S FAILURE TO NOTE THE SCOPE OF AMERICAN BUSINESS ACTIVITY HERE. AFTER MAKING ALLOWANCE FOR NIMEIRI'S APPARENTLY FELT NEED TO ASSERT SUDANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND IDEOLOGICAL NON-ALIGNMENT, WE BELIEVE HE WAS GENUINELY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ARE IN THE SUDAN'S BEST INTERESTS. OF COURSE ONE COULD POSIT INSTEAD THAT NIMEIRI WAS FLAUNTING PRIVATE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN THE FACE OF THE RUMORED USG OPPOSITION, BUT SUCH AN INTERPRETATION DOES NOT STAND UP WELL TO THE TEXT. MOREOVER, HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO SUBSTANTIATE THE RUMORS BY CITING EXIM'S WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE FINANCING OF GE LOCOMOTIVES AND BOEING 737S, AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT HE DID NOT. (CHARGE' HAS TOLD INQUIRING FRIENDLY DIPLOMATS THAT, BEYOND DENYING EXIM AND OPIC RESOURCES TO VENTURES HERE, THE USG HAS NOT ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED AMERICAN FIRMS FOR INVESTING IN THE SUDAN.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO02359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-0145
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741036/aaaabepe.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 2300
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI'S REMARKS ON BSO CASE AND AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN SUDAN
TAGS: PFOR, EINV, SU, US, BSO, (NIMEIRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005